

Lipinski	Olver	Slaughter
Lofgren, Zoe	Ortiz	Smith (WA)
Lowey	Owens	Snyder
Lynch	Pallone	Solis
Maloney	Pascarell	Spratt
Markey	Pastor	Strickland
Marshall	Pelosi	Stupak
Matheson	Peterson (MN)	Tanner
Matsui	Pomeroy	Tauscher
McCarthy	Price (NC)	Taylor (MS)
McCollum (MN)	Rahall	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Reyes	Tierney
McIntyre	Ross	Towns
McNulty	Rothman	Udall (CO)
Meek (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Udall (NM)
Melancon	Ruppersberger	Van Hollen
Michaud	Rush	Velázquez
Millender-	Ryan (OH)	Visclosky
McDonald	Sabo	Wasserman
Miller (NC)	Sánchez, Linda	T. Schultz
Miller, George	T.	Waters
Mollohan	Sanchez, Loretta	Sanders
Moore (KS)	Sanders	Watson
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Watt
Moran (VA)	Schiff	Waxman
Murtha	Schwartz (PA)	Weiner
Nadler	Scott (GA)	Wexler
Napolitano	Scott (VA)	Woolsey
Neal (MA)	Serrano	Wu
Oberstar	Sherman	Wynn
Obey	Skeltson	

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PROVIDING FUNDING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE EVACUATION OF PERSONS FROM LEBANON

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate bill (S. 3741) to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon, and for other purposes, be taken from the Speaker's table, amended in the form that I have placed at the desk, and hereby passed; that the amendment placed at the desk be considered as read; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3741

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FUNDING AUTHORITY.

(a) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon a determination by the Secretary of State described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may transfer to the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account from unobligated amounts in any account under the “Administration of Foreign Affairs” heading such sums as may be necessary—

(i) to cover the costs of facilitating the evacuation under section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) of persons from Lebanon on or after July 16, 2006; and

(ii) to replenish the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account up to the level of funding that existed in such account on July 15, 2006.

(B) DETERMINATION.—A determination referred to in subparagraph (A) is a determination that additional funding for the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account is necessary as a result of the extraordinary costs of facilitating the evacuation under section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) of persons from Lebanon on or after July 16, 2006.

(C) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—Amounts transferred under subparagraph (A) shall be merged with amounts in the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such account.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), not later than 5 days before transferring funds under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed transfer.

(B) EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) if exigent circumstances exist. In the event of such a waiver, the Secretary shall provide notice of the transfer of funds to the appropriate congressional committees as early as practicable, but in no event later than 3 days after such transfer, including an explanation of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

(C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the

Senate and the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 8 of title II of division B of Public Law 109-148 under the heading “EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE” and any other unobligated amounts in the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account may be made available to cover the costs of facilitating the evacuation under section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) of persons from Lebanon on or after July 16, 2006.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. WOLF:

Strike subsection (a) and insert the following new subsection:

(a) INCREASE IN AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS.—Notwithstanding the transfer restrictions under section 402 of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-108), the second proviso under the headings “DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS” is amended by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$19,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think especially in the closing days of the session, that Members ought to have an understanding of what is going on, even though this is martial law time.

So I would ask if the gentleman would please explain to the House what this action would do.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this amendment simply gives the permissive authority to the Secretary of State to access these and other previously appropriated funds to cover the evacuation of Lebanon.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, could I ask the gentleman, has the administration given us any indication of where they are likely to take funds from in order to accomplish this?

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, they have been in discussion with the staff as to some ideas. But their priority was to get this legislation passed because there are going to be more evacuations taking place.

So as of now I cannot tell you the exact places.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, I would hope that the administration would let the Congress know as quickly as possible where it is planning to take funds from, so that if the Congress has any concerns, we might express those concerns before we are facing a fait accompli.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object,

NOT VOTING—24

Baca	Gohmert	Northup
Billrakis	Istook	Norwood
Boehler	Jones (NC)	Nunes
Buyer	Lewis (GA)	Oxley
Coble	Linder	Payne
Davis, Jo Ann	McKinney	Platts
Deal (GA)	Meehan	Salazar
Evans	Meeks (NY)	Stark

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Messrs. CARDOZA, AL GREEN of Texas and BARROW changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, July 28, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote No. 418. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on this vote.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5970, ESTATE TAX AND EX- TENSION OF TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006 AND H.R. 4, PENSION PRO- TECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-613) on the resolution (H. Res. 966) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5970) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000, to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes; and consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

though I may not object, just a few days ago, I filed H. Res. 945, the Lebanon Humanitarian Relief Act with a number of cosponsors. And I raise the question to the distinguished gentleman of whether or not what we are doing today will also include a cessation of targeting infrastructure of noncombatants, and whether or not it will also establish or give the Secretary of State the ability to, if you will, negotiate safe corridors for evacuees to be able to be evacuated.

This is a crucial time in the history of our Nation, and as well in the issues dealing with the Mideast. And I am concerned that as we consider funding for the evacuation of innocent Lebanese citizens, as has been noted, several incidents have occurred where evacuees unfortunately suffered injury or death trying to escape, therefore we should instruct the Secretary of State to negotiate with the United Nations and the participants in this conflict safe corridors for the Lebanese evacuees and also a cessation of firing on noncombat structures such as airports, hospitals, schools and otherwise.

I yield to the gentleman to know if there are any instructions in this UC with respect to any of those items.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, no, there are not. It would merely ensure that the State Department could use the existing funds to get American citizens out of harm's way and to pay the debts that they have obligated both for cruises, for ships and for other things whereby they are taking people to Cyprus and other points of safety, so they can pay their bills.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, let me say that I applaud the gentleman. That is an important task, if you will. With that in mind, I will simply say, I hope that we will hear from the administration, and that this Congress will proceed in August to be able to provide direct humanitarian relief to Lebanon, and as well provide for the safe passage of those who are non-combatants innocent civilians trying to escape and to protect those structures which are not involved in this conflict.

With that, I would ask the leadership of this House to support H. Res. 945 and to bring it up immediately.

H. RES. 945

Whereas, since the commencement of hostilities, over 350 Lebanese civilians, one third of whom are children according to the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, and 17 Israeli civilians, have been killed;

Whereas vital infrastructure, including hospitals, power plants, bridges, roads, and food and milk factories in Lebanon have been destroyed;

Whereas over 600,000 people in Lebanon and hundreds of thousands of people in Israel have been displaced;

Whereas President George W. Bush has expressed great concern over the welfare of the people of Lebanon;

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has called for an immediate cease-fire;

Whereas the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator has warned of a humanitarian disaster in Lebanon;

Whereas the Government of Lebanon has urgently appealed for an immediate cessation to hostilities; and

Whereas the international community has expressed support for a humanitarian corridor to Lebanon to be opened immediately to get desperately-needed humanitarian supplies to the suffering people of Lebanon: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls for the cessation of the targeting by any side of infrastructure vital to non-combatants, which also increases the likelihood of the loss of innocent civilian life;

(2) calls for a secure humanitarian corridor to be opened immediately via the seaports and airports of Lebanon to alleviate the unnecessary suffering of the people of Lebanon;

(3) calls for an immediate cease-fire in line with the urgent appeals of the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations Secretary General; and

(4) urges a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict to ensure that the peoples of the Middle East can live in peace, freedom, and prosperity.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation, hoping for debate on humanitarian aid directly to Lebanon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5970, ESTATE TAX AND EXTENSION OF TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006 AND H.R. 4, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 966 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 966

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5970) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000, to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4) to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the

chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 966 is a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5970. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 5970 in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

It also waives all points of order against the consideration of H.R. 5970 and provides one motion to recommit H.R. 5970.

House Resolution 966 also provides for the consideration of H.R. 4 under a closed rule. It provides 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 4 in the House equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 4, and provides one motion to recommit.

This rule allows for consideration, Mr. Speaker, of two very important measures. The first deals with protecting the pensions of American workers. Mr. Speaker, the recent financial troubles and pension terminations of several large companies underscore the need for fundamental pension reform. The underlying bill is an agreement struck between the House and the Senate conferees on H.R. 2830, the Pension Security and Transparency Act.

The underlying bill will ensure that millions of hard-working Americans who rely on single and multi-employer pension benefits can continue to count on them. I would like to congratulate the majority leader, Mr. BOEHNER for his tireless efforts in bringing this conference report before the House today.

Mr. BOEHNER has worked on legislation to better protect the pension of workers for over 5 years now, and I commend him for his hard work on this issue. It is vital, Mr. Speaker, that we modernize current pension laws by strengthening worker's retirement security and reduce—

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota.